

# ENERGY TIDBITS

October 2003

**Green Building Conference & Expo** will be held on October 30 at the Hannah Center in E. Lansing. Paul Majka will be the keynote speaker at this event designed for builders, remodelers, suppliers, and students of building science. Cost is \$35. Call 517/323-3254 or email [pwood@glhba.org](mailto:pwood@glhba.org)

**National Tour of Solar Buildings** will be Saturday, October 4. Six areas in Michigan from the Keweenaw Peninsula to Ann Arbor will have local tours. Each area will provide a tour booklet with homes and businesses that will be open to the public. More details: <http://www.glrea.org/events/solarBuildingTour2003.html>

**Oakland University** has recently installed a 10 kW photovoltaic demonstration project on the roof of the student apartment Community Building. An open house will be held on Friday, October 3, 11:00 am - 7:00 pm. <http://www.oakland.edu/energy/>

**Home Consumer Guide** has helpful hints on buying, building or renovating a home. The Home Technical Manual has information to design and build a more environmentally friendly home. [www.greenhouse.gov.au/yourhome/index.htm](http://www.greenhouse.gov.au/yourhome/index.htm)

**IEEE 1547 Standard for Interconnecting Distributed Resources** is available online. Go to the IEEE Online Catalog & Store and type "1547" in the search box. [www.irecusa.org/articles/static/1/1057565540\\_987096450.html](http://www.irecusa.org/articles/static/1/1057565540_987096450.html)

**Renewables For You Conference** will be hosted by Recycle Ann Arbor on Saturday, October 11 from 8 AM to 2 PM at the University of Michigan League. A \$25 registration fee includes a box lunch. <http://www.recycleannarbor.org/events/events.htm>

**August 14 Not a Problem** for Urban Options in E. Lansing, Great Lakes Renewable Energy Assoc. in Dimondale, and St. Elizabeth Catholic Church in Wyandotte. Their solar and wind systems keep them going during the power blackout.

**FuelCell Energy** has installed a fuel cell power plant for Starwood Hotels & Resorts. The 250 kW natural gas unit will provide ¼ of the power and heat to the Sheraton Edison Hotel - Raritan Center in Edison, New Jersey.

**MicroGeneration to PowerParks 2003 Conference** will be held on November 17-18 at the Henry Center, MSU, E. Lansing. Come explore affordable and reliable and often renewable on-site generation systems. Conference includes CHP Buyers Forum. [www.glrea.org](http://www.glrea.org). More details to follow.

**DALI?** Digital addressable lighting interface is a two-way communication system that brings digital technology to lighting. An international standard for communication, DALI defines the commands that ballasts need to recognize in order to be considered DALI ballasts. The system allows individual ballasts to talk to the user and allows the user to talk back via DALI controllers, computers, or building management systems. (*BUILDINGS, August 2003*)

**Waste Reduction & Energy Efficiency Conference** will be held on November 5 at the Burton Manor, Livonia. Energy sessions will cover fuel cells, lighting upgrades, compressed air optimization, steam best practices, and a case study on the EPA Vehicle Emissions Laboratory. [www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-brochure-wree2003.pdf](http://www.deq.state.mi.us/documents/deq-ess-brochure-wree2003.pdf)

# ENERGY TIDBITS

September 2003

Page 2 of 2

**Aluminum Conductor Composite-Reinforced Wire**, a new wire whose heat-resistant properties could help prevent future blackouts caused by peak overload, is being developed by 3 M. It would allow power lines to transmit 2-3 times more electricity.

**Electric Cooperatives' Customer Choice Schedule** has been approved by the MPSC. By January 1, 2005, the cooperatives will provide choice for all commercial and industrial member-consumers with a peak load of 200 kW and above. By January 1, 2006, the cooperatives will provide choice for all commercial and industrial member-consumers that currently have a demand meter installed and that have a peak load of 50 kW and above. However, no more than 30 percent of the total number of member-consumers between 50 kW and 199 kW for each cooperative will be permitted to switch.

**Recent Survey by FlexCar** indicates that 42% of its customers have avoided buying a new car or truck. The car-sharing program which began in Seattle has expanded into six other states.

**Michigan Biomass Energy Conference** will be held on November 21, 8:30-3:30 at the Pierce Cedar Creek Institute in Hastings. The conference will cover the past, present, and future of biofuels in Michigan, anaerobic digestion and what it means to Michigan farmers, and state and national perspectives. [www.cedarcreekinstitute.org/calendar.htm](http://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org/calendar.htm)

**Environmental Siting of Distributed Energy Resources** fact sheet is available at <http://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy03osti/34000.pdf>. Technology specific regulations are available at [http://www.eere.energy.gov/der/tech\\_specific\\_regs.html](http://www.eere.energy.gov/der/tech_specific_regs.html).



Prior issues of Energy Tidbits are at:  
[www.michigan.gov/energyoffice](http://www.michigan.gov/energyoffice) under Publications.

**Would you like to subscribe?** Call John Sarver at 517/241-6280 or e-mail [jhsarve@michigan.gov](mailto:jhsarve@michigan.gov)

Energy Office, Department of Consumer & Industry Services  
Serving Michigan . . . Serving You